

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

MAPPING THE DISTRIBUTION OF PALAEARCTIC WILDFOWL IN EAST AFRICA - 1980 PROGRESS REPORT For the third January running, the E.A.N.H.S Ornithological Sub-Committee organized counts of Palaearctic ducks at various wetlands in East Africa on behalf of the International Wildfowl Research Bureau. The aims of the survey have been outlined previously (Meadows 1979).

Several new waters were counted in 1980 and, in terms of aerial coverage, about 250 20-km squares in Kenya have been mapped over the past three years. There will be further counts during January 1981 and interested observers are asked to contact the author for allocation of suitable areas still needing coverage. Historical data over the past two decades are also being solicited, specifically for the mapping exercise, to provide complementary information for the final report to the I.W.R.B.

TABLE 1

Waters in Kenya providing records of Palaearctic ducks in January 1980

Locality	Species ¹
Tana Catchment	
Othaya Dam	G
Makuyu Dam	G, P
Gethumbwini Dam, Thika	G, P
Upper Athi Catchment	
Thika oxidation ponds	G, P, S, Te, W
Lake Amboseli	G, P? S
Nairobi National Park dams	G, P, S, Te
Dandora oxidation ponds	G, P, S, Te, Tu, W
Smart's Swamp, Limuru	G, P, S
Athi River oxidation ponds	G
Closeburn dam, Kiambu	G
Rift Valley Catchment	
Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf	G, P, S, W
Lake Turkana, Alia Bay	G, P, S
Lake Turkana, El Molo Bay	G, P, S
Lake Baringo	G, P, S, Te, Tu
Lake Elmenteita	P
Lake Nakuru	G, P, S
Lake Naivasha	G, P, S, Te, W
Kinangop dams	G, P, S, W
Shombole Swamp	G
Ewaso Nyiro Catchment	
Lake Ol Bolossat	G, P, S, Te, W
Ewaso Narok Swamp, Rumuruti	S
Sukuti Naibor dam	S
Nyahururu Swamp	S, P
Lake Victoria Basin	
Two Rivers Dam, Eldoret	W
Coast Province	
Lake Jipe	G
Aruba Dam	G, P, S
Mida Creek	G

¹G=Garganey *Anas querquedula*, P=Pintail *A. acuta*, S=Shoveler *A. clypeata*, Te=Teal *A. crecca*, Tu=Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, W=Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Letters in italics denote concentrations of 50 or more birds.

The total numbers of every species, save Eurasian Wigeon, were higher in 1980 than in 1978 and 1979. Perhaps significantly, the northern winter in East Africa was dry in 1979/80 compared with the previous two wet seasons. This may have led to more ducks concentrating at the sites visited, but it is far more likely that this represented a genuine influx in response to the dry conditions north of the equator.

The Shoveler, particularly, was more abundant in 1980 than in the two previous years with concentrations exceeding 2000 birds at Lake Naivasha and Ferguson's Gulf, although the numbers recorded were still lower than during the early seventies when there were >10 000 at Ferguson's Gulf, and >5000 on Lake Nakuru alone. Another result of the increased recording worth highlighting is the widespread occurrence of the Teal, indicating that this is a species that is probably far less scarce in Kenya than was considered previously. Also noteworthy was a count of 1860+ Pintail at Lake Baringo on 6 January, and numbers never dropped below 1200 there at any time during the month. Over 1000 Pintail were also present at Lake Ol Bolossat.

Although the majority of localities holding ducks are in the highlands (above 1500 m) or at Lake Turkana, this is by no means a strict rule, and one conclusion of the study has been the realization that waters in the Coast Province of Kenya do attract at times, albeit in small numbers, all the regular Palaearctic species, with the exception of the Eurasian Wigeon, which appears to be very much a high altitude duck.

REFERENCE

MEADOWS, B.S. 1979. Preliminary report on the January range and abundance of Palaearctic ducks in East Africa. *Scopus* 3: 29-31.

B.S. Meadows, Box 30521, Nairobi

Received 29 October 1980

Scopus 4: 89-90, December 1980

EXCEPTIONAL NUMBERS OF PINTAIL *ANAS ACUTA* AT LUANSHYA, ZAMBIA IN 1979/1980
On 24 November 1979 five Pintail *Anas acuta* were seen with other ducks at Makoma Sewage Oxidation Ponds, Luanshya (13°07'S, 28°22'E). On subsequent visits the authors noted a steady increase in numbers and, in mid-December, Pintail were also found at a pool on Akatiti, a mine tailings dam inactive since 1970 and situated 3.5 km southeast of Makoma Ponds. A regular watch was kept on these and other Luanshya waters, and counts of Pintail were made (see Table 1). Numbers rose to a maximum of 37 on 12 January 1980.

TABLE 1

Numbers of Pintail at Luanshya from November 1979 to March 1980. The numbers of males are divided into those in full breeding plumage [F] and those in partial breeding plumage [P]. A '?' indicates that males were not separately counted on that date

Date	Total	Males	Date	Total	Males
24.11.79	5	2P	19.01.80	30	?
30.11.79	9	?	02.02.80	30	12F
01.12.79	8	1F1P	07.02.80	26	?
04.12.79	12	?	13.02.80	17	?
15.12.79	21	2F2P	16.02.80	9	4F
29.12.79	30	2F5P	27.02.80	6	?
05.01.80	34	?	01.03.80	5	3F
12.01.80	37	11F	08.03.80	0	-